

Washington State Department of Health

Oral Health State Plan Vision Statement and Guiding Principles

2nd Draft

Vision: *Oral health is a critical and integral component of overall health and well-being throughout the life span.*

We envision a Washington where:

- every person enjoys optimal oral health
- every person understands the importance of oral health and its relationship to total health,
- prevention and health promotion are essential, and
- oral health care is available, accessible, affordable, and appropriate.

Guiding Principles: We believe that...

- Oral health care involves preventing oral disease, sustaining good oral health, and having access to dental services when needed.
- Culturally-appropriate oral health prevention activities are more cost effective than treatment and are key to improved oral health.
- A network of partnerships, programs, and resources - coordinated among dental and medical providers, insurers, and social service organizations - is critical to ensuring appropriate prevention activities and access to oral care services to all Washingtonians, including special populations.
- Communities and their health care providers have a social responsibility for the residents that do not have good oral health.
- The diversity, capacity, and flexibility of the professional workforce needs reflect the state's population and allow for optimal access to care for all.
- Technology can enhance the quality of all oral health care.
- Building the science base through research and transferring it to the public thru plain talk is essential to educate and ensure the public's optimal oral health